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"SO, JULIE... WHERE
WERE WE?"

"I JUST WANT YOU
TO REMEMBER, I
ONLY HAVE YOUR
BEST INTERESTS
AT HEART!"

YEAH, I'LL
BET!





THAT'S
RIGHT, KID!
TIME FOR
THE...

LAST... Fairytale

I hate
fairy stories,
Uncle Artie!

NOW, JULIE,
BE GOOD, OR I'LL
SEND YOU TO BED
WITHOUT YOUR
ROTTING, GUILT-
RIDEN PSYCHIC
METAPHORS!



REMEMBER WHEN YOU
WERE A LITTLE GIRL,
AND YOU'D STAY UP
LATE, LISTENING...

"YOU'RE A NUT, ARTIE!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN
A NUT! THAT'S WHY
WE LOVE YA!"

"I'M A NUT BECAUSE
I'M WILLING TO THINK
NEW THINGS, BE OPEN
TO THE COSMIC
QUESTIONS?"

"WELL, YEAH. THE
G-MEN SENT YOU
TO AUSTRALIA TO
STUDY THE
ABORIGINES, NOT
TO BUY INTO THEIR
KOOKY RELIGION!"

"GOD I LOVED YOUR DAD!
HE WAS A STICK AND HE
COULDN'T SEE THE
CATTLE FOR THE FIELD
MICE, BUT HE WAS A
GREAT GUY! IT WAS TOO
BAD I LOST HIM..."



YES, THEY
WERE MY BEST
FRIENDS...

IT'S
REALLY QUITE
LIBERATING.

YOU MEAN THE
WAY THEY BELIEVE
WE CAN EXIST IN
TWO PLACES
AT ONCE?

"THAT'S
NUTS!"

I COULDN'T
STAND IT. ONE
WORLD AT A
TIME IS ENOUGH
FOR ME!

NOW, WHO'D
LIKE SOME...



DON'T
WORRY...

...I'LL BE
FINE.





DID I MENTION
HOW MUCH I
LIKED JOHN?

SO THEY
WANT ME TO
DESIGN THIS
CITY...

ALL FULL
OF GARGOYLES AND
ART DECO CRAP! I
TELL YA, ARTIE.
HOWARD ROARK
WOULDN'T A PUT
UP WITH IT!

BUT JOHN
WAS A MAN
ON HIS WAY
DOWN...

JEEZ,
MAN, I
KNOW...

I HATE
ARCHITECTURE.

AND ALL I COULD THINK
OF WAS THE CONVERSATION
THAT WAS GOING ON DOWN
THE HALL. THE STORIES
YOUR YOUNG MIND WOULD
MAKE OF ALL THIS...

HAD YOU
INHERITED
YOUR MOTHER'S
ABILITY TO
SEE?

I COULD'A
BEEN MAURICE
SENDAK. HE'S
GOD, MAN!

AND WOULD YOU
TURN YOUR BACK
ON IT, AS WELL?

AND SO THE SUMMER ENDED.
AND I KEPT AN EYE ON YOU
AS YOU GREW FROM A SPRIG...



...TO A
REBELLIOUS
YOUNG
WOMAN...

...WITH REMARKABLE
(AND ARTIFICIAL)...

BRIGHT
RED HAIR...

...WHICH YOUR
MOTHER HATED...

...WHICH WAS
PRETTY MUCH THE
POINT, WASN'T IT?

SO I CAN AFFORD
IT, MOM, AND I GOT THE
INSURANCE AND I'M
GONNA NEED A CAR
WHEN I'M OFF AT
COLLEGE...

Uh...

YOUR
FATHER
HATES THIS
CAR!

A STEAL!

WELL...

NO, HE
DOESN'T, MOM.
HE JUST
SAID...

SMILIN' ED'S
USED CARS

33

HE HATES THIS
CAR, BECAUSE IT MAKES
YOU LOOK CHEAP AND
TRASHY, AND IT'S
DANGEROUS, AND I
FOR ONE WOULDN'T GO
AGAINST HIM WHEN HE'S
GOT HIS MIND
MADE UP!

BUT YOU STOOD FIRM, AND
FOR SINCE YOUR DAD
SUPPORTED YOU, WHICH
WAS GOOD, BECAUSE YOU
HAD THE FEELING THAT
IF ANYTHING IMPORTANT
WAS EVER GOING TO
HAPPEN TO YOU...

...IT WAS
GOING TO
HAPPEN IN
THIS CAR!



AND OF COURSE IT DID,
BECAUSE YOU HADN'T
BEEN AT COLLEGE MORE
THAN SIX WEEKS WHEN
A MAN, WHO WAS PRE-
TENDING HIS CAR HAD
BROKEN DOWN, HAD
TRIED TO...

STOP.

I DON'T
WANT TO
TALK ABOUT
THAT.

OH, RIGHT.
SORRY.



ANYWAY, AS THE OUTSIDE
WORLD BECAME UNSAFE...

...THE WORLD INSIDE WAS
ALL YOU HAD LEFT.



SR. EXCEPT
FOR THE NIGHT
TEARERS...

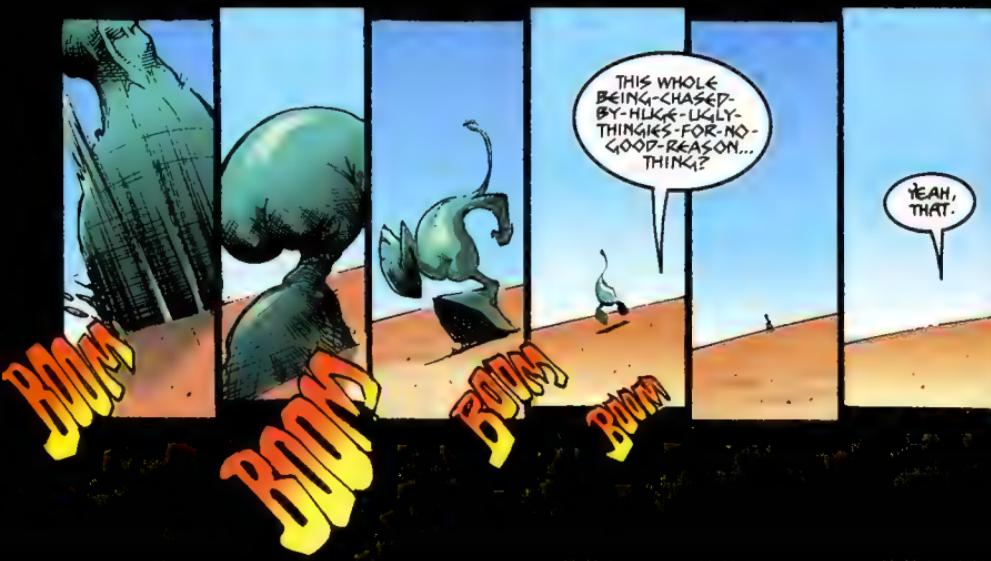
...AND THOSE PESKY
GRADES WHICH JUST
KEPT GOING DOWN...

...YOU OTHERWISE
SURVIVED THE WHOLE
THING BEAUTIFULLY...

JEEZ... HE
LIKED MOM?
THAT'S PROBABLY
THE GROSSIEST
THING HE'S SAID!

...WHICH EXPLAINS WHY YOU'RE
PREGNANT, LIVING IN A WORLD
OF FANTASY AND LIES, AND
HAVEN'T LEFT YOUR BATHROOM
FOR A WEEK!

GOD KNOWS WHAT
CHAOS IS GOING ON
INSIDE YOU...



BOY, YOU LOOK
FLUSHED. I GUESS
MERE MEMORIES
ARE BUBBLING UP.

ANYWAY, I WANT TO
TALK ABOUT THE NIGHT
THREE WEEKS AFTER
THE ATTACK...

IT WAS RAINING
AND YOU WERE
COMING BACK
FROM A BIG
SOCIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
"DO"...

YOU SAW THE MAN,
AND I GUESS IT
SEEMED TO YOU LIKE
HE CAME OUT OF
NOWHERE, LIKE
YOUR STALKER
HAD...

...BECAUSE
INSTEAD OF
BRAKING...

...YOU
DIDN'T.

NO, NO...
I DON'T WANT
TO REMEMBER
THAT....!

DON'T FIGHT IT,
JULIE-- YOU'RE
ALMOST THERE!

KEEP ON
SPACE
TRUCKIN',
MAMA!

AHA! A LITTLE
MORE OF THE
MEMORY JUST
CAME UP, EH?

SO... AS YOU STEPPED
INTO THE ALLEY, YOU
FAILED TO NOTICE THE
BROKEN LAMP THAT
FELL AGAINST THE
WALL.

CLINK

WELL, NOT
AGAINST, REALLY...
MORE LIKE...

...THROUGH.

INTO
ANOTHER...

...WORLD.

WHICH BRINGS US TO
ME, ALWAYS MY FAVORITE
PART OF THE STORY.

I WAS TAKING A WALK
IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND
THAT EVENING, WHEN I SAW
SOMETHING ODD.

CLINK!

A BIT OF A LAMP
HAD APPEARED
IN MID-AIR.

"HOW ODD,"
I THOUGHT.
"A LAMP."

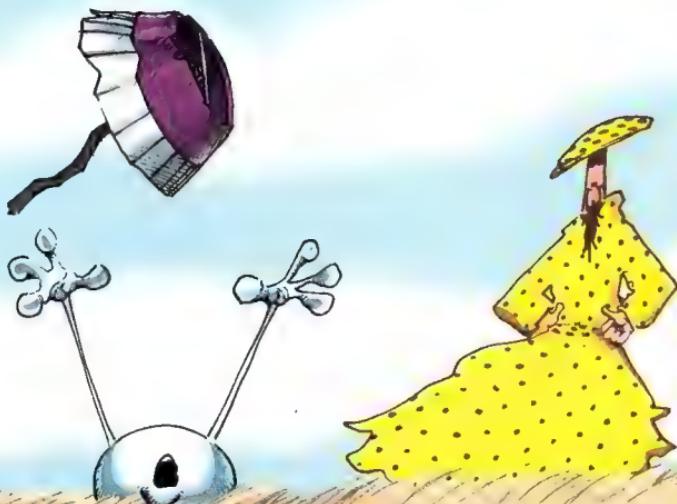


YAWN!



OBVIOUSLY, SOME PSYCHIC EVENT OF TERRIBLE PROPORTIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE.

THAT, OR SOME BOB KNOCKED SOME TRASH INTO THE OUTBACK...



...THROUGH A DIMENSIONAL PORTAL I'D FORGOTTEN TO CLOSE.

SOMETHING WAS WRONG. NOTHING INORGANIC HAD EVER GOTTEN THROUGH BEFORE.

EVEN MY COAT AND HAT WERE MADE FROM OUTBACK CREATURES.

HOW COULD THIS BE?



IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
I MEAN, THE GUILT OF
HITTING HIM ALONE
EXPLAINED YOUR
PREOCCUPATION
WITH HIM.

...THAT CAUSED YOU TO
PROJECT YOUR BUNNY
STUFF ONTO THIS
STRANGER--BUT WHAT
MADE IT REAL...

...WAS THE
LAMP.

CLUNK!

YOU WERE
SO CAUGHT UP
IN IT ALL...

BUT IT WAS
SOMETHING
DEEPER...

...YOU DIDN'T
SEE ME PUSH
IT BACK THROUGH.

...THAN GUILT...

...OR FEAR...

YOU CHECKED.
STILL
BREATHING.



...WHEN YOU
COVERED UP
THE BODY AND
DROVE AWAY...



...LEAVING
BEHIND...

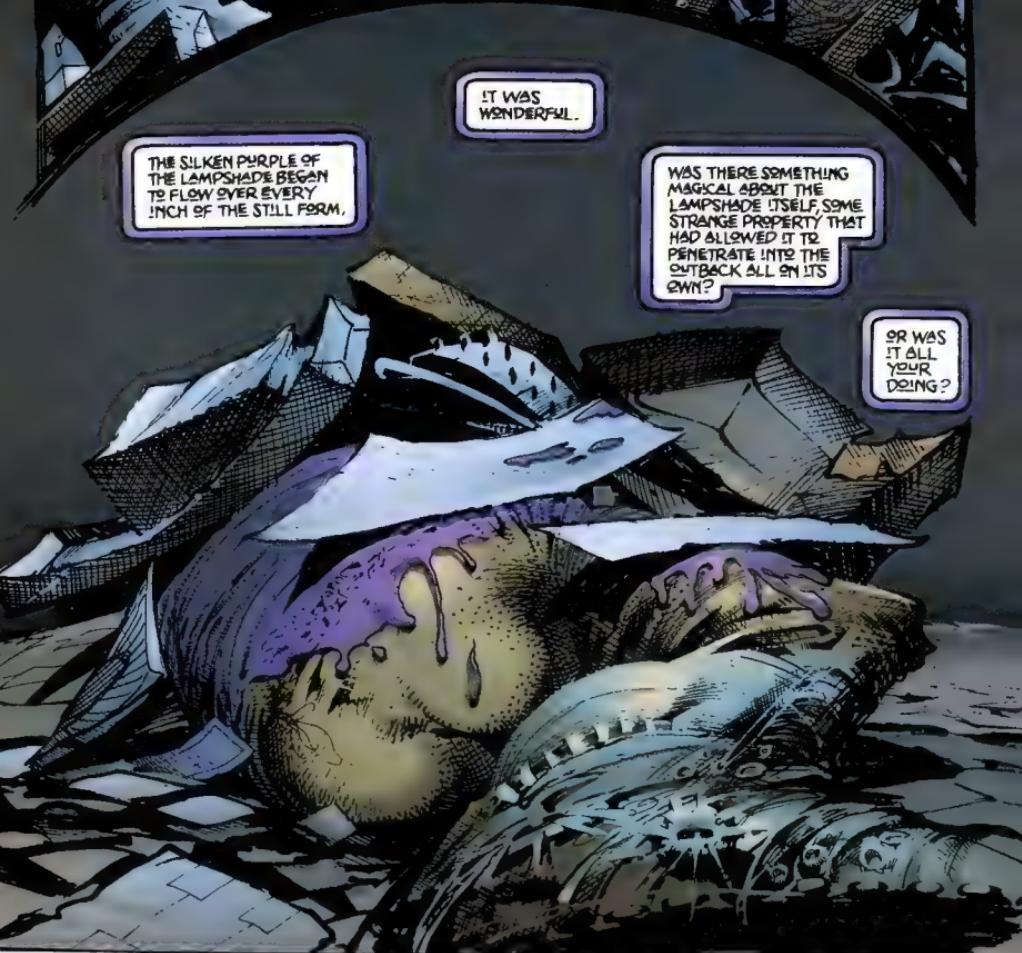
...GOD-KNOWS-
WHAT.

IT WAS
WONDERFUL.

THE SILKEN PURPLE OF
THE LAMPSHADE BEGAN
TO FLOW OVER EVERY
INCH OF THE STILL FORM,

WAS THERE SOMETHING
MAGICAL ABOUT THE
LAMPSHADE ITSELF, SOME
STRANGE PROPERTY THAT
HAD ALLOWED IT TO
PENETRATE INTO THE
OUTBACK ALL ON ITS
OWN?

OR WAS
IT ALL
YOUR
DOING?



DAMNED
IF I
KNOW.

'Y SEE, JULIE...
EVERYONE HAS AN
OUTBACK. AND THE
REAL MAXX IS THE
ONE INSIDE YOU
RIGHT NOW FIGHT-
ING FOR YOUR
LIFE.'

IT WAS ONLY
AN ACCIDENT
THAT GOT THAT
BUM DAVE MIXED
UP IN ALL THIS.

HE'S BEEN
WAITING TO FIND
HIS OWN OUTBACK--
WHICH WAS PUT ON
HOLD WHEN YOURS
BECAME TOO
STRONG.

HOW MUCH
LONGER WILL HE
HAVE TO WAIT,
JULIE?

OUTBACK

DID I
MENTION HOW
MUCH I HATE
THIS?

SEVERAL
TIMES, BRER
LAPIN.

SLAP!

SLAP!

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

OKAY,
JUST
CHECKING.

SLAP!

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

NEXT:
STICKY FEET, HAPPY FEET!



MOORE ON MAXX!!! Bill and I are really proud to have Alan Moore, one of comics' most respected writers (and one of the writers I respect the most, besides Bill) guest-scripting Maxx #21. Meanwhile, Bill will be off writing a Maxx/Gen13 crossover.

Thanks for San Diego; I got to meet lots of cool fans and familiar names. Cale and Ryan wouldn't leave until I said I'd print that Maxx likes lemon pez, so there you go, guys. Can I have my dog back now?

I'll be appearing at the con in Montreal on October 14, if yer in town...

Although Bill and I usually write this book, a lot of people make helpful suggestions along the way. One of these guys is Mike Heisler, who sometimes helps me butcher Bill's script at the last minute. Thanks, Mike.

And check out Wizard #51 for a preview of behind-the-scene Maxx stuff, both from the past and from #21 coming up.

Head 2 Head is no longer rocking—it's roaring. We printed four pages this month, but there are so many ads that we're running out of room. Maybe smaller print...

Sorry, Dave Roman of North Babylon, New York, who did the killer back cover on #17. His name was printed as Dan Roman of New Babylon. Oops. And while we're being sorry, please don't call Ryan Tamietti in Phoenix any more.

He's no longer running a fan club there.

Mr. Kieth and Maxx,

The Maxx has surpassed Ash, Spawn, Madman Adventures, and Bone as my absolute favorite comic experience. The reason I read the above is because of four things. One, they are different and unique. Two, they are highly original and fun. Three, they're just plain fun to read. And four, they have a good story and great art. The Maxx is the epitome, a grand nexus of all these things. That is why I cherish The Maxx. That and it's cheap.

Forever a devoted reader,

Brian Steggeman
Lawton, OK

Maxx is The Thing That Won't Die. Letters keep pouring in, some from the toon, but most from the book. Orders have been solid for the last four issues, despite the fact that retailers are in more trouble now than ever before. How can we show our gratitude? By not raising the cover price, for one thing, in spite of pressures to do so. So enjoy us in our cheapness while it lasts, Brian. We'll hold the fort as long as we can.

Dear Sam,

Has it ever occurred to you that Julie's hair probably accounts for a full third of her total body weight? Just wondered.

Jeremy Dunlap
Standish, ME

No. Wow. Heavy hair!

Dear Mr. Kieth,

I'm sorry to say that my Maxx-zine will be no more. #3 will be the last issue. Quin Dorsey is doing a Maxx-zine, so his will be the only one out there. My resignation is due to my starting college while

SCOTT VANPEHEY
Portland, OR

putting in 25 hrs at work a week. I need to spend my free time on my studies, and I just won't have the time anymore. Sorry, Maxx-heads. Quin's zine costs \$1.00 plus one stamp; send to Quin Dorsey, 1006 Willow Bend Dr., Edgewood, MD 21040.

Sincerely,
Heather Galuzzi
Apple Valley, CA

OK, Heather—congrats on getting a life.

(Gee—where does
that leave the rest of
us?)

Dear Sam Kieth,
Is that an I with
Reebok shoes in that jail
cell in Issue #15, or is it
my imagination that it's
the Armature dude with
shoes?

Your devoted fan,
Benjamin Arteficio
Manila, Philippines

Dear Maxx Man,
In Issue #6, page
4, is that Armature
being knocked off Maxx's table? If it is, what the
heck is he doing at Julie's house?

Maxxhead forever,
Dave Clark
Peterborough, Ont., Canada

Hey Sam!
Is Steve Oliff going to do Armature, or what???

Rob Thomas

**People are still writing in about Armature.
Steve has a whole universe built up in his head. I've heard the music he's recorded
for it—sounds great! Write to Steve (c/o
the Armature ads or Olyoptics) and let him
know he HAS to get his stories done.**

**Armature is in a separate universe from
Maxx, though. He appeared in Maxx as
a favor to Steve, but further mixing of the
two worlds could be dangerous on a sub-
atomic level...**

Sam,
I just picked up an album of really cool abstract
jazz by a band called the Weather Report. The
album was called "Mr. Gone." An inspiration of
yours?

little mikey t.

**I was definitely inspired by these guys,
who've been around since the '70's.
Besides, all the good names were taken—
Dr. Strange, Dr. Who,
Dr. Fate, Mr. X. Even
that Mr. X in The X-
Files.**

Dear Sam,

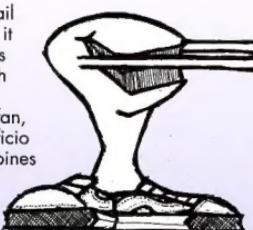
I am writing in to address
a small article in Maxx #16.
It was written by Ben Jacobs.
In his entry he wrote about
what sound a rabbit makes
when it gets run over. I
must say that I find it sad
and utterly horrifying that
someone has so little to do
that he sits around listening
to the sounds different animals
make when they get
run over. But then again,
every guy needs a hobby.

Your fan,
Evan Daigle
Berkley, MI

HE, HE, HE

MEEP!

CHRISTOPHER POSTEN
Seattle, WA



Sammy,
Sarah probably listens
to some moody
alternative
stuff...Mazzy Star,
the Cure, NIN.
As for Julie, I see
her as being a
big Tori Amos
fan. She just
seems to fit in
with Tori's atti-
tude, and her lyrics
are very pertinent to
Julie's situation. I
can see her getting
into some classic
rock as well: CCR,
Skynard, Todd Rungren. Maybe even (GASP)
Meatloaf.

Greg Vernon
New Port Richey, FL

**Come to think of it, we haven't put any
Rungren posters in The Maxx yet. Good
idea!**

Hey Sam,

Julie listens to freedom rock from a tape she
ordered off a TV commercial [ouch!]. Maxx likes
AC/DC, Midnight Oil, and Men at Work. Julie tries
to get him to listen to Deep Purple, but he doesn't
get the joke.

All best wishes,
Richard Laddusaw
Kansas City, MO

Dear Samm,

In response to your question last issue, Maxx likes
to listen to The Tea Party. Especially in his primal
state. They pipe it through the outback all the time.
I've heard it.

Forever,
Nikk
Brisbane, Australia

Dear Sam 'n' Bill,

No, NO, NO! I'm sorry, but I feel that I have to
step in here. Ben Steidel of Danville, CA was WAY
off the mark on The Maxx
musical question! I don't want
to put down either Smashing
Pumpkins or The Afghan
Whigs, but it's obvious to me
that Maxx and Sarah don't
listen to any of the bands that
Ben mentioned. On the other
hand, they DO listen to the
velvet tones of They Might Be
Giants, The Beatles, Primus,
and Devo! Thank you for letting
me clear this up once and for all. If there's one thing we
don't need in this world, it's
confusion over the listening
habits of a giant purple Pez-
eating rabbit-man with claws
and Size 63 Wide orange
Keds!

Jim "Generalissimo
Raviali" Spurrier
Hamilton, OH

P.J. AFABLE
Tracey, CA



How about this: Sarah's Mom likes Joni Mitchell, Julie grew up on Kate Bush, and Sara would be the Tori Amos fan. What do you guys think?

Dear Sam,

It is with deep regret that I must bring to your and the many other Maxxheads' attention that you have been discovered to have committed an artistic crime. I am referring to the cover of Issue #17. I have reason to believe the painting you did for that cover has been used before.

When I purchased the issue, I noticed right off that something was unusual about that cover. After looking at it for a while, it began to be familiar. Then I remembered why! I went through my tape of the MTV cartoon and came to a scene in Episode #4 (Issue #3 of the comic). It was the scene where Maxx is forgetting why he is chasing the Is. In it is a painting you did of the outback Maxx. Bingo!

So the cover of Issue #17 is actually that painting with Maxx's hair and head dressing painted over. Now as an artist, I find this shameful. I still love your work and understand this was probably an act to save time and money, but I don't think that was a very good move. I just don't want to see your name as an original artist "dirtied" like this (the best word I could come up with).

I would appreciate you printing this letter so the truth can be told. Also keep in mind there are many keen eyes like my own out there.

Sincerely,
Sean Ryan
Mira Loma, CA

You seem to have misunderstood that I did most of the art for both the cartoon and the book; therefore, I'm ripping myself off, which artists do daily. Are you saying that if it appeared on TV, it can't appear in the book, and vice versa? Is this some kind of rule I slept through in Home Room? (Gee—that invalidates the whole toon, which mostly came right from the book.)

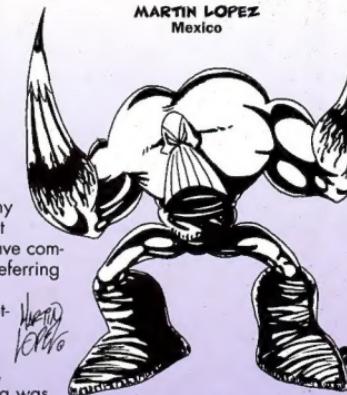
The piece that you're referring to, by the way, was painted with the intention of being a cover long before the toon happened. I thought about not giving it to the toon so it would first appear in the comic, but decided that was stupid and greedy.

I dunno...anybody else out there feel cheated?

Hi,

I just got through with Ish #17 and realized that, not only was Maxx in two planes at once, but he was with two different people! In the outback, Maxx is with the Jungle Queen, and in the "real world" he is with Sarah.

MARTIN LOPEZ
Mexico



My questions are: (1) Is Sarah Maxx's new soulmate, or is she just soul surfin' with Maxx while Julie is out of commission? (2) About those quilt castle scenes in Issue #14 (where there is a Maxx/Horse). Is this supposed to mean that The Maxx is being everyone's "pack mule" of physical and emotional problems and that he's trying to help everyone (a task that may be beyond his abilities)?

Thanks for yer time,
Eric Williams
Columbus, GA

(1) The latter.
"Soul surfin'?"

(2) Or that Sarah's spirit is still immature in that issue (she is a little girl, after all, in Issue #14). When Sarah was small, her outback consisted of a secret quilt tent, her favorite toys, and a horse. It'll be interesting to see how it forms in #21 into an adult's outback, knowing the clues in #14. Alan Moore is a great soul surfer, and will provide many surprises!

Dear Sam,

I feel that everyone has an outback. I especially have one, where I am a hero. It's a different place. It's like where I can get accepted for who I am, not for how I look.

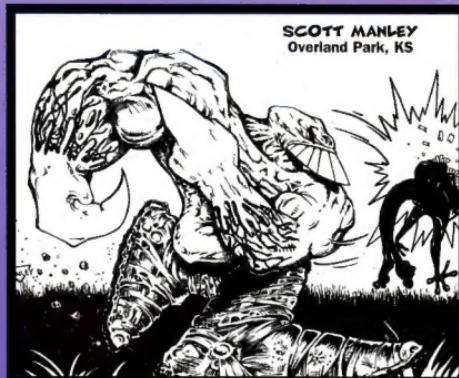
A dedicated Maxxhead,
"Mr. John" Williams
Oviedo, FL

Dear Co-conspirator of Brilliant Animated Poetry (and ideaman behind equally brilliant comic book),

Does the sacrifice the Leopard Queen was talking about and Maxx was wondering about mean Julie is going to abort the baby? Or perhaps she's going to have a miscarriage. All the references to expelling poison led me to that theory. And then flipping back a few issues to #14, I read how Gone kept talking about the womb. And then here's the good part, he talked about the symbolic significance of the water, as in a baby breathing the water in the womb. Which led me right back to Ish 17 where they talk about the water in the volcano. I was happier than Julie at a Paglia seminar because I thought I would actually predict something that happened in The Maxx. But alas, I picked up Issue 18 and saw the cross referencing between Julie's toilet and the volcano water. And then the expelled poison seemed to be Mr. Gone's head. These weren't definite clues so my theory could still be right. I guess only time will tell.

Respectfully yours,
Evan L. Rosen
St. Louis, MO
Abortion?

Miscarriage? Not likely, but any-



thing's possible. Remember that the water in the womb was from Sarah's pre-developed childhood outback, and everything else you mentioned belongs to Julie's. Other than that, your theory sounds hunky-dory to me.

Dear Sam,

The longer Julie puts off hearing the truth, the uglier Mr. Gone will get. But when Julie hears the truth, Mr. Gone will return to his wiry, bald-headed, hand-glowing self.

Is this even remotely correct?

Thanks a ton,

Brian Windsor
St. Charles, IL

**Sure—why not?
Just don't forget
that Mr. Gone is
a whole differ-
ent bag of toma-
toes for Sarah
than he is for
Julie.**

Dear Sam,

Just when I thought I had The Maxx figured out, you made it a little more confusing! In Ish 17, Maxx says, "I was always better fixing pipes than repairing souls! Wait a sec! I was a plumber?" And then in the cartoon he takes off his suit and he's a gardener! Which one is he? Or is he both? And, does Dave (Maxx) have a spirit animal, and if so will you ever show us what it is?

Maxx rules!
Todd Killick
Olney, MO

Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. No.

Dear o-great Kieth role-model god-type person,
A plumber.

You've got to be kidding.

A three hundred pound plumber.

What the [MEEP!] do you mean he's a plumber?
I swear, this comic gets weirder every issue.

A plumber...

A PLUMBER?

A fan,
J. Schirmer
Brainerd, MN

wants to know why the heck Maxx is a plumber... P.S. Why in the heck a PLUMBER? Why not a lawyer? (Well, OK. A three hundred pound plumber is weird, but a three hundred pound lawyer is stretching it.) Or maybe just a bunny, like he is in the outback! Just a 300 pound bunny! But...a plumber with pecs that big? Geez...

**Hey, Fridge is a 300 pound lawyer!
Besides, even greenhouses get leaky
pipes. We may never know completely
what Maxx the man was before all this,
but that's...OK...**

Dear MAXTRAXX and the bunch,

I know Maxx's fears are named after himself but I thought they were also named after Dave Feiss the person who did the Crappon dream sequence. Does that mean The Maxx was named after a cartoonist?

Just another one of your fans,
Travis Bond Hepburn
Omaha, NE

**We may also never know "Dave's" last
name. Write this down, folks: Maxx's**

**mask is that thing
that each person's
spirit animal hides
behind (and wait'll
you see what Julie's
Maxx-mask is made
out of! For clues,
check out #8, pg.
13.)**

Dear Sam,

Sarah's spirit animal is a horse. That is why her Maxx has the qualities of a horse—the legs. Julie's spirit animal is a rabbit; that is why her Maxx has the qualities of a rabbit—the big feet. Sarah's outback is the quilt with lawn chairs; Julie's is the Pangaea. At the end of the comic, Maxx tells Sarah that he isn't her Maxx, and that is why the world turned upside down. He also told her that the horse

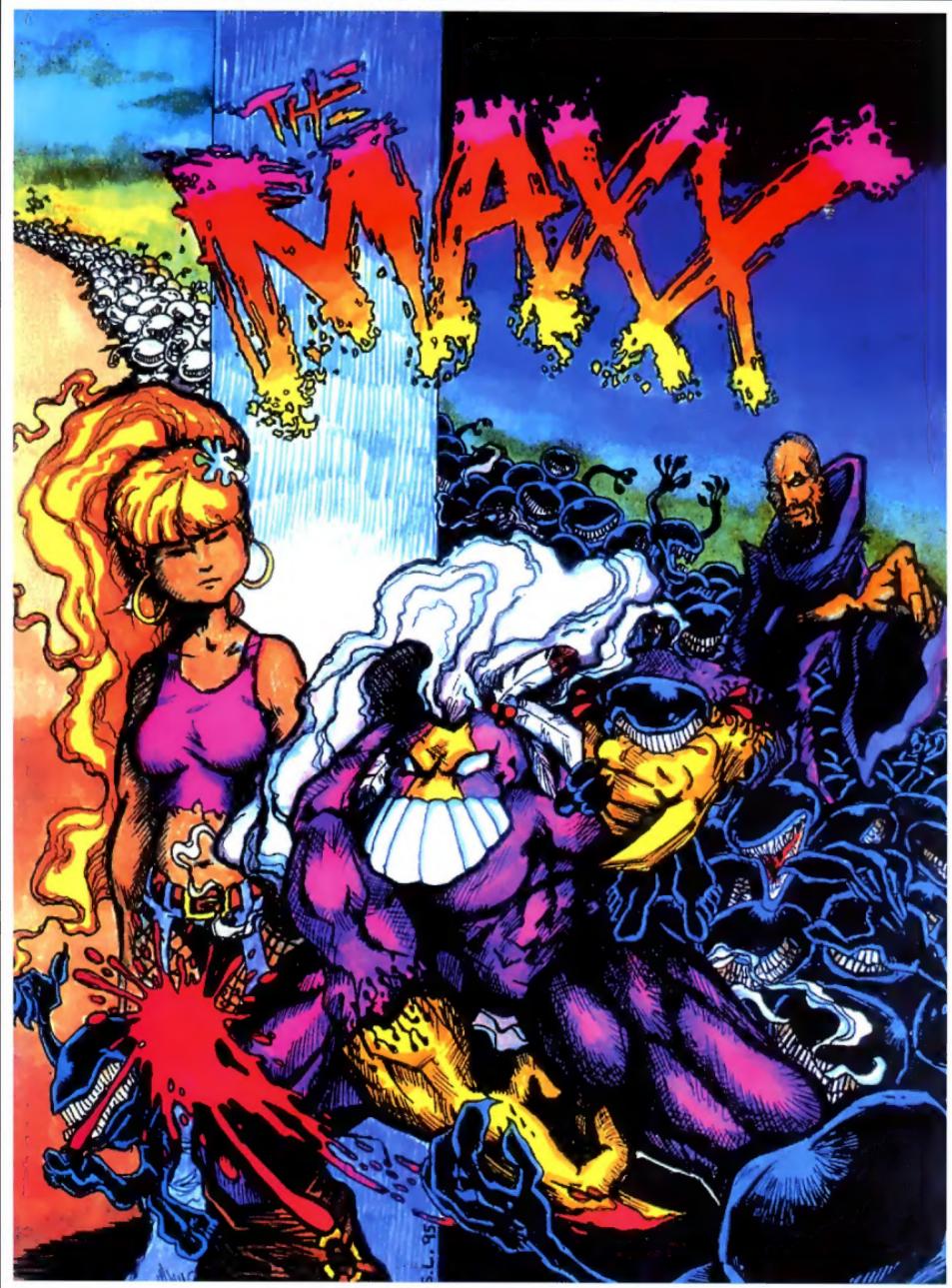
was her Maxx. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?? Maxx isn't anything special. Everyone has a Maxx and an outback and Maxx is just another one.

One more problem: in one of the letters in Issue #16, you said that #20-#30 are going to be about Sarah and her spirit animal, the horse. Does that mean we're not going to see the purple Maxx anymore? And instead we will see that crappy horse Maxx? I'm scared.

Your Maxxhead,
Darren Hollander

Don't worry—Julie and her Maxx are too integral a part of the story to never be "seen" from again. I just think that the story will move ahead faster and more clearly by jumping to someone's else's outback at this point. "Maxx the man," and "Julie and her rabbit" will always be around. But remember how weird Maxx 'n' Julie seemed in the beginning. Try to give Sarah and the horse a chance, too.





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